

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Implementation of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)**  
**Recommendations,**  
**and Other Army Actions**  
**At Fort Jackson, South Carolina**

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) addresses actions that are fully documented in the *Implementation of Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations, and Other Army Actions At Fort Jackson, South Carolina Environmental Assessment*. The Environmental Assessment (EA) is hereby incorporated by reference in this FNSI. Therefore, information in this FNSI will be limited to an overview of key elements of the EA, and conclusions regarding the type and degree of environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed action.

**Proposed Action:** The Base Closure and Realignment (commonly known as BRAC) Commission directed that the following actions take place at Fort Jackson, South Carolina:

- **Establish New Army Reserve Southeast Regional Readiness Command.** The Commission recommended realignment of the Birmingham Armed Forces Reserve Center Alabama by disestablishing the 81st Regional Readiness Command and establishing the Army Reserve Southeast Regional Readiness Command in a new Reserve Center on Fort Jackson;
- **Establish New Consolidated Drill Sergeant School.** The Commission recommended realignment of Fort Benning, Georgia and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri by relocating the Drill Sergeant School (DSS) from each location to Fort Jackson;
- **Establish a Joint Center of Excellence for Religious Training and Education.** The Commission recommended the realignment of Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, Naval Air Station Meridian, Mississippi and Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island by relocating religious training and education to Fort Jackson, establishing a Joint Center of Excellence for Religious Training and Education (JCERTE);
- **Relocate Mobilization Processing Functions.** The Commission recommended the realignment of Fort Eustis, Virginia, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and Fort Lee, Virginia by relocating all mobilization processing functions to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and designating it as Joint Pre-Deployment/Mobilization Site Bragg/Pope; and



**Other Army Actions:** In addition, other Army actions that are sufficiently well defined for analysis at this time are forecast to be implemented at Fort Jackson during the FY06-11 timeframe and are included as part of Alternative 1.

- **Locate Basic Combat Training Battalions.** Station two Basic Combat Training battalions (approximately 1,200 soldiers each) at Fort Jackson.
- **Expansion of Child Development Center at Fort Jackson.** Construct a 6,190 square foot expansion of the existing Child Development Center.
- **Relocate 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Cadet Command.** Relocate 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Cadet Command from Fort Bragg to Fort Jackson.

**Alternatives Analyzed:** Implementation of either of the action alternatives would require construction of new facilities to accommodate the increase in personnel assigned to Fort Jackson. Alternatives to implement the proposed action were developed and are analyzed in the EA. The alternatives are as follows:

- Alternative 1 – Establishment of New Army Reserve Southeast Regional Readiness Command, Consolidated DSS, and JCERTE; Relocation of Mobilization Processing Functions; CDC Expansion; Relocation of 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Cadet Command; and Stationing of two Basic Training Battalions (*Preferred Alternative*).
- Alternative 2 – Establishment of New Army Reserve Southeast Regional Readiness Command RC, Consolidated DSS, and JCERTE; Relocation of Mobilization Processing Functions.
- No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, Fort Jackson would not implement the proposed action.

For actions directed by the BRAC Commission, it will be noted that for the No Action Alternative, continuation of current conditions is not feasible since the BRAC actions are required to be implemented by the BRAC legislation.

**Environmental Impacts of the Actions:** The EA analyzed 12 resource areas for each alternative: land use, aesthetics and visual resources, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources (flora, fauna, threatened and endangered species and unique and critical habitats), cultural resources, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic substances. The analyses in the EA concluded that there would be no significant adverse or significant beneficial environmental impacts resulting from implementing either of the action alternatives.

**Mitigation Measures:** Although the standard mitigation measures described below would reduce any potential adverse impacts of implementing either of the



action alternatives, they are not required to reduce the potential impacts below significance levels.


- **Geology and Soils:** Construction activities for the action alternatives would follow a Memorandum of Agreement with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to ensure erosion control plans are in effect. Actions occurring on the installation are required to meet existing management plans, standard operating procedures (SOPs), permit requirements, as well as local, State, and federal standards. Programs are in-place to ensure proper soil management and are adequately funded to repair or rehabilitate areas disturbed by military activities.
- **Air Quality:** Techniques will be employed to minimize fugitive dust emissions and open-burning activities would be minimized by regulating the types of materials burned as well as tracking weather conditions.
- **Water Resources:** Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented in accordance with applicable National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and State and local requirements. All construction activities will be conducted in accordance with State, local, and federal guidelines, regulations, and permits, and all identified and available BMPs will be used to minimize potential effects. Appropriate mitigation features such as wellhead protection measures, stabilization of disturbed soils, drainage swales, and retention ponds during construction phases to minimize erosion and off-site sedimentation will be implemented in accordance with the State of South Carolina Clean Water regulation requirements for construction activities.
- **Biological Resources:** All soil disturbing activities are reviewed to ensure that impacts to wetlands are avoided or minimized. Trees and vegetation would be maintained and structural erosion control measures would be employed according to standards and specifications of the State of South Carolina and/or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency document *Stormwater Management for Construction Activities*. Management of prescribed pine tree habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers would be maintained as outlined in the Endangered Species Management Plan in accordance with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.
- **Cultural Resources:** Fort Jackson has previously coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Federally Recognized Native American Indian Tribes (FRNAIT) concerning proposed project lands within the cantonment area. The FRNAIT and SHPO have agreed that the cantonment area does not have to be surveyed prior to disturbance. Proposed project areas outside the cantonment area have been surveyed for cultural resources and none are known to exist. If artifacts are found during construction within the cantonment area or beyond, work will cease and the

FRNAIT and SHPO will be consulted. Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan procedures will be followed.

**Conclusion:** On the basis of the findings of the EA, conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500), and 32 CFR 651 Environmental Analysis Of Army Actions, and after careful review of the potential impacts, I conclude that implementation of any of the alternatives would not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. The Army's selection to implement the proposed action is Alternative 1.

**Public Availability:** The EA and draft FNSI underwent a 30-day public comment period, July 22-August 20, 2006. This was in accordance with requirements specified in 32 CFR Part 651.14 Environmental Analysis of Army Actions. Throughout this process, the public was able to obtain information and/or submit comments on the proposed action and the EA through Jim McCracken, NEPA Coordinator. Mr. McCracken's mailing address is:

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Date **8 SEP 2006**